



# Allandale Neighbor

June 2019  
Vol 34, Issue 3

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## 61st Allandale 4th of July Parade!

Allandale Neighborhood Association Social Committee

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time has come to start float planning and prepping! Dust off your Uncle Sam top hat, polish your red, white, and

blue saddle shoes, and get ready for the Allandale Annual 4th of July Parade. Just show up at the intersection of Bullard and White Rock at 8:30 a.m., look for your category sign, and register on the spot to vie for awards donated by our fabulous local area merchants.

Not marching? Just line up along Bullard to watch the procession!

The parade will start moving at 9:00 a.m. sharp and end at Gullett Elementary School with fun festivities, food trucks, games, and community engagement tables.

Want to help? We need volunteers. Email [allandalesocial@gmail.com](mailto:allandalesocial@gmail.com). See you on the 4th! ☸

## Watch this space: Swimming pool replacement, what does it mean?

Steve Johnson

**W**e've heard from some of you that you would like more information about what's involved with replacing a public swimming pool. This is particularly important because our beloved Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District park pool was identified as in critical condition by the Aquatic Needs Assessment from 2014.

What would you like to know? Please send your questions to us at [allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com).

We'll start a series of articles in the August edition of the Allandale Neighbor

## More Residential Parking Permits in Allandale

Kevin Smith

**W**hile the continued popularity of Burnet Road brings us more and more delicious places to dine and relax, it also brings an unexpected side effect, overflow parking on neighborhood streets. This overflow parking, coupled with used car lots parking their inventory on neighborhood streets, has created a dangerous situation for neighbors to do routine things, like walking, or riding bikes down the street. Cars parked on both sides of the street create narrowed sight lines. This, coupled with the lack of sidewalks, makes walking down the street

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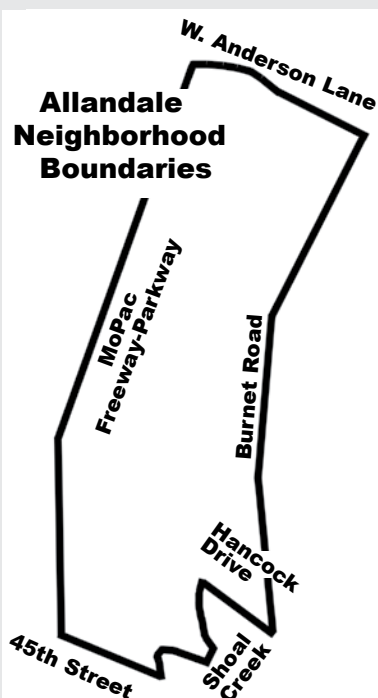
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ANA Executive Committee meetings are held on the  
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General Membership meetings are held in March and  
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## President's Letter

Kevin Smith, ANA President, 512-791-6064, Allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com

I wish to thank Adam Haynes for stepping in and fulfilling my duties whilst I was out on vacation; it made it easier to relax knowing that he was there to answer any questions and address any concerns that arose during my trip. It is not only Adam that I am grateful for; the dedication and passion of the entire board of directors makes my job much easier.

While I was away, the survey responses were rolling in; I wish to thank the approximately 400 neighbors that took the time to complete the survey. I personally read the vast majority of your comments and I hope that this month's short survey will offer some guidance on some of the recurring themes and provide some actionable items we can take to the City of Austin. In addition, the survey responses will help provide a guide for the guest speakers at our monthly neighborhood meetings.

My hope is that by having responsible parties at the meetings, we will be able to get answers to your concerns. I would encourage everyone to read the meeting agendas that we publish, and if a speaker is coming to talk about a concern you have, please show up to the meeting. The more voices we have, the better questions we can ask! I do look forward to sharing the results with you during our October 2 general meeting.

Lastly, make sure to stay cool this summer!

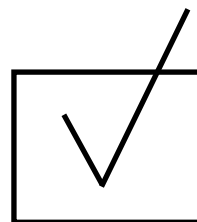
Kevin ☼



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## Watch this space: Swimming pool replacement, what does it mean?

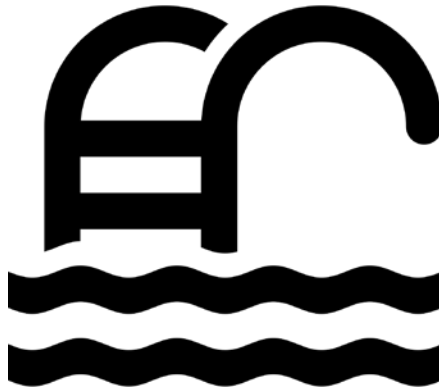
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to inform you of the process and to answer your questions.

**Refer to the following PDFs for detailed information:**

Aquatics Facilities Needs Assessment: (see Table 14 on page 65 and also Section VII, Part F on page 102): <https://tinyurl.com/y5f7dwu3>

If you aren't familiar with the aquatic master plan, approved by the City Council in 2018, it's here (warning: it's a long read): <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/aquatic-master-plan> ☼



## More Residential Parking Permits in Allandale

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increasingly dangerous.

In response to these dangerous conditions, the neighbors on Daugherty Street, between Addison Avenue and Twin Oaks Drive, as well as those on Park View Drive between Daugherty Street and Nasco Drive, applied for and were approved for the Residential Parking Permit Program. This means between the hours of 4:00 and 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, parking will be limited to residents who live on the aforementioned streets.

Residents can purchase parking permits to park cars on the street, but are not required to purchase the parking permits if they park in their driveways and not on the street when the restrictions are in effect. Overall, this will make the neighborhood streets safer for both cars and pedestrians, as a clear line of sight will be established, and cars will be able to pass one another safely. ☼

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FOR MORE DETAILS.

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## Rosedale School Rezoning for Pediatric Medical Clinic

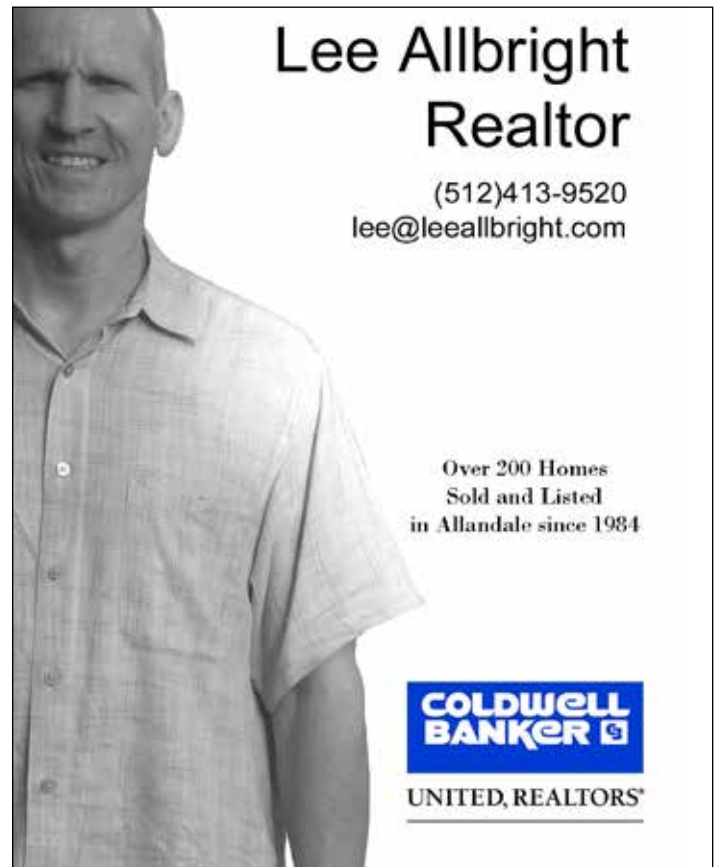
AISD 2017 Bond Communications Team

In 2017, voters approved Austin ISD's largest bond to date: a \$1.05 billion investment to embark on the first phase of a long-term plan to modernize schools and address overcrowding and critical deficiencies. The bond included a replacement facility for the Rosedale School, which will be built at the former Lucy Read Pre-K site in the Allandale neighborhood. The new school will be a state-of-the-art facility designed to meet the new AISD Educational Specifications and purposefully built to serve the district's most medically fragile students.

As part of the planning process for the new Rosedale School, AISD has submitted a rezoning application to the City of Austin. The proposed rezoning would allow the site to house a specialized pediatric medical clinic for children with complex needs. The district is currently in discussions with a medical provider to partner on this exciting and important feature of the school.

"With the new Rosedale School came the opportunity to partner with a medical provider to open a specialized clinic on site," said Rosedale Principal, Elizabeth Dickey. "This clinic will improve our students' quality of life tremendously."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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# Rosedale School Rezoning for Pediatric Medical Clinic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

For students who attend the Rosedale School, traveling is not always easy. Many of the children have to be transported in busses with special medical equipment. Having a clinic on site would mean one less trip families will have to make, which can often be dangerous for students.

This clinic would be different than the typical doctor's office, because it is so specialized and only serves pediatric patients with complex medical needs. On a busy day, the clinic may see around 25 patients. This allows the medical staff to spend more time with each patient, who might see a dentist, optometrist, and general practitioner in one visit, while the family receives counseling; each visit is unique to the child.

In order to have a medical clinic on site, AISD must rezone the current property. The current zoning is SF-2, Single-Family Residence Standard Lot and the district is requesting that the new zoning be GO-CO, General Office-Conditional Overlay. The district is proposing to

remove most of the uses from the GO zoning district so that it can only be used for the following:

- Commercial Uses
  - Medical Offices - exceeding 5,000 sq. ft. gross area
  - Medical Office - not exceeding 5,000 sq. ft. gross floor area
- Civic Uses
  - Hospital Services (limited)
  - Public Primary Educational Facilities
- Public Secondary Educational Facilities

The Zoning and Platting Commission made a recommendation to rezone the Lucy Read site to be GO-CO at the May 21 meeting. The next step in the process will be a vote by Austin City Council, which is expected to take place on June 20.

There have been two community meetings held so far to discuss the Rosedale School rezoning application. AISD is committed to reporting back after the June 20 council meeting and involving

the community in the design process for the new school. There will be a series of community meetings held during each phase of the design and neighbors are welcome to join the Rosedale School during each construction milestone, such as the groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting.

"Our student population is small, but we welcome everyone with open arms," said Principal Dickey. "The love our students receive at Rosedale, they give back to the community ten times over. We embrace being a good neighbor and look forward to being part of the Allandale community."

To learn more about this modernization project, see a full list of FAQs, and sign-up for email updates, visit [www.austinisd2017bond.org/schools/rosedale](http://www.austinisd2017bond.org/schools/rosedale). To share feedback or questions, please call (512) 414-9595 or email [future@austinisd.org](mailto:future@austinisd.org).

*Editor's Note: This article was written by AISD and its representatives and are not ANA's opinions. ☸*



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	2016	2017	2018
TOTAL TRANSACTIONS	79	85	90
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MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET	9	11	8
MEDIAN \$/SQ FT	\$290	\$297	\$317
MAX PRICE SOLD	\$880,000	\$1,317,000	\$1,222,500
MIN PRICE SOLD	\$355,000	\$399,900	\$345,000

For detailed market information about your home contact **Jason Heffron, Broker**

All YTD data is pulled from Austin MLS for single family residence as of January 1st - December 30th.



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# Allandale Outside: Urban Gardeners Always Evolving

Faye L Holland

**T**his garden was slow and undeliberate," say Allandale gardeners of seven years, Pete and Sarah Edwards. When developing your landscape, "You need to realize that it is an organic and ever-changing process." They moved here from a wooded cabin in Arizona that backed up to a national forest, so moving to suburban Austin was quite a change. They have made a private haven for their family with gardens, chickens, a deck, a patio, two sheds, a workshop, four stacked canoes, an arbor, Frisbee golf, a playscape, and a fire pit.

When they first moved in, their backyard was two-thirds bamboo! Over many years Sarah has pulled up and removed massive amounts. She still has to dig up shoots! They have a patch of grass that has taken off this year, either because of the rain or a great combination of St. Augustine and shady Texas seed mix. This is their second attempt at growing grass

over what used to be a bamboo jungle.

It is important to Pete and Sarah to utilize the materials they can easily obtain or have on hand. The wood used to build the deck of the workshop, the side fencing and a rose arbor is from Georgetown. They were paid \$500 to haul away materials. The limestone garden edging was a giveaway from some neighbors. The pathway throughout the yard is made of old outdoor decommissioned stair-treads! The collection of pieces and materials makes the yard look amazing, like many different rooms.

Sarah and Pete emphasize the process of developing a landscape and taking the time to evaluate if something isn't working. They just fix it or move it. "The only thing a mistake can cost is a good workout," said Sarah. She has scraped away decomposed granite that was being tracked into the house and laid new gravel on top. They have moved stone and

mulch areas, too. Something that looks good now might not look good later on, so it is OK to make a change.

They describe each other as, "the summer gardener," Pete, and "the winter gardener," Sarah. Sarah has learned much of her gardening from working at Gullett Elementary through being a constant help in her children's classroom gardens. At home, they were able to harvest 30 artichokes this year, and they have twenty that are going to bloom. The harvest of spinach and carrots this winter just from seed was bountiful.

Sarah believes in the importance of hand-picking weeds and realizing that as a Texas gardener you are always at the mercy of the weather. Despite the cold winter and a strong wind storm, they were able to harvest about seven dozen peaches from their two trees.

Pete has been drawn to gardening after observing his grandfather when he visited

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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# Allandale Outside: Urban Gardeners Always Evolving

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Pennsylvania as a kid. When his grandfather got home, he would immediately go to the garden. His grandfather was able to grow corn and tomatoes on his acre of land, and his love of tomatoes had been passed down to Pete.

Two of Pete's favorite tomatoes are Black Krim and Cherokee Purple. One of his favorite things about growing tomatoes has been helping his father find a palatable tomato. His dad was unable to eat tomatoes for years because of the acid,

and Pete found a low-acid tomato -- the delicious Ruby German Green.

Right now, the three raised beds hold 31 tomato plants, 15 basil plants, and seven pepper plants. Pete has learned to put a two-inch aluminum foil ring around each plant to protect the plants from cutworms. One inch of foil stays above the soil and the other inch is pushed below. He also has installed a two-foot screen at the base of each raised garden bed to keep out cats and squirrels.

Throughout the season, Pete aggressively monitors his plants for leaf-footed bugs, *Leptoglossus*, which are especially dangerous early. Using a two-quart cup of soapy water, he shakes the plants so the bugs fall in and drown.

Pete and Sarah have many future plans for their yard. I can't wait to visit again and see the progress. Maybe there will be a rain collection system, a treehouse, or another shed? ☼

## BUG OFF! Millipedes

Wizzie Brown

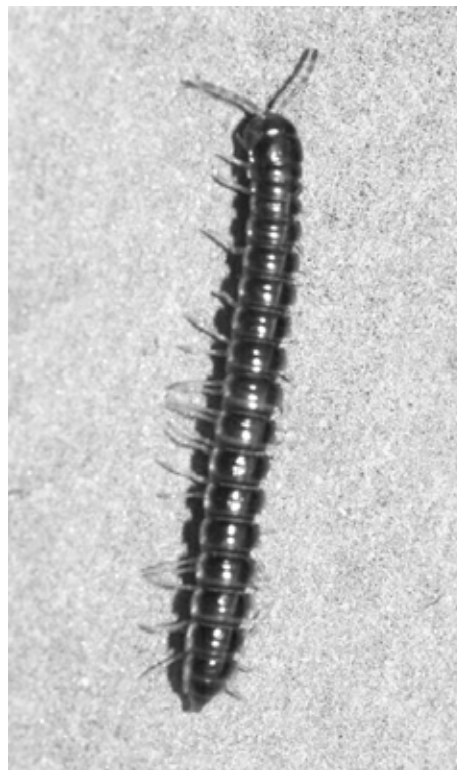
**M**illipedes are often mistaken for worms. While millipedes have elongated bodies similar to worms, they have lots of legs, which worms lack. Millipedes have a long, cylindrical body, a pair of antennae and two pairs of legs on each segment of their body. They often curl into a spiral as a way to protect themselves when threatened.

Millipedes live in moist environments such as soil, leaf litter, and compost piles, under mulch, rocks or wood. Millipedes most often feed on decaying organic matter, though some are carnivorous. They are not typically thought of as pests, but more of a nuisance, although they may occasionally damage seedling plants by feeding on stems and leaves.

Large numbers of millipedes may move into structures after heavy rainfall or during periods of drought. If millipedes do wander indoors, they usually die quickly, due to lack of moisture.

### Tips to prevent millipedes from moving indoors:

- Move objects providing harborage (compost piles, firewood, stones) away from structures
- Create a band of gravel between the home foundation and landscape beds
- Adjust watering schedules if overwatering
- Turn mulch so it dries out
- Seal accessible areas where millipedes can move into the home -- around doors and windows, pipe penetrations, etc.



- Ventilate crawl spaces to allow for air flow

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. ☼

## Allandale Eating - District Kitchen

Robert E. Mace, Dining from Daugherty

**O**ne of the golden rules of restaurant reviewing is not to evaluate an eatery during its opening weeks. There are always bugs (hopefully not literal) to cleaver as new staff learns new processes with new clientele. Nonetheless, we stopped into District Kitchen+Cocktails mere days after they debuted in the hope that, since this ain't their first buffalo burger, they know what they're doing. We were not disappointed.

After attending Le Cordon Bleu in Austin and becoming the executive chef for Kona Grill at the ripe old age of 21, Amir Hajimaleki and his brother Ali opened up their first restaurant in 2013, the original District Kitchen+Cocktails, in Circle C. They followed that with Oasthouse Kitchen+Bar near Concordia University in 2015, and now a second District in the former location of Suzi's China Grill at Anderson Lane and Shoal Creek. (Amir also features a pop-up [soon to be brick and mortar?] called Roya that serves food from his Persian background.)

Amir casts his menu as New American, which is broadly defined as a fusion of French and other European techniques with standard American fare, mixed with elements of Asian, Latin, and Mediterranean cuisines (we are a melting pot, after all!). There are hummus and falafel, street tacos, poke, Wagyu steak, shrimp and grits, blackened fish, a buffalo burger (I told you!), salads, pasta, and migas. Such a wide array of cuisines on a menu would



typically worry me ("What exactly do y'all do well?"), but District's chef de cuisine MacKenzie Viglianco seems to do everything expertly (I only say "seems" since I haven't eaten through the entire kitchen [yet]). District's menu follows the seasons and favors local farmers and vendors, as well as sustainable seafood.

We've stopped in twice for brunch, and were impressed with the quality and the price for that quality: this chef-conceived-and-prepared food is a great deal. The Hamachi Crudo (pickled grilled pineapple, golden beet citrus marinade, cucumber, fresno pepper, and cilantro; \$12) was light and fun—a great way to start our meal. Being hopelessly infatuated with biscuits, I tried the aptly-named Heart Breaker (two honey buttermilk biscuits topped with duck-fat gravy, bacon, shishito pepper, sharp cheddar, green onions, and two sunny farm eggs; \$13) while the bride yinned my yang with the Little Gem Salad (orange supremes, goat cheese, grape tomato, shallots, fresh mint, cucumbers, toasted almonds, and sherry vinaigrette; \$12), which was, indeed, a little gem of a delightfully delicious salad.

The Shackshuka (a misspelled Middle-Eastern dish of two poached farm eggs in spiced tomato ragout, sausage, feta cheese, and micro cilantro with french bread; \$10), which came in an iron skillet and a (false) warning of spiciness, was savory and pan-scraping good. The District Spring Omelet (wild mushrooms, roasted red peppers, asparagus, goat cheese, and pea tendrils with smashed potatoes; \$10) tasted like a bright and sunny spring day (something these folks excel at). A friend thoroughly enjoyed her Chicken+Waffles (crisp golden waffle topped with fried chicken and served with cinnamon honey butter and maple syrup; \$15) raving that the thin chicken allowed the perfect chicken-to-waffle ratio for every bite. Yet-to-be tried enticements include Hog Wings (pork shanks with Shiner tamarind sauce), Bacon Beignets, Falafel Fritters, Truffle Prosciutto Naan, and Blue Crab Mac & Cheese, among others.

Pastry chef Dennis Van has forged some fantastic desserts. A blueberry and lemon cake, a lo-fi/hi-fi green tea tiramisu with Rice Krispies, and the District's famous Chocolate Nutella Mousse (light and fluffy chocolate hazelnut mousse, candied orange zest, sea salt; \$8) were all memorably delicious.

Cocktails feature prominently in District's name, but we haven't ventured deeply into the drink menu yet (check out the highly Instagrammable Butterfly Effect on the District's



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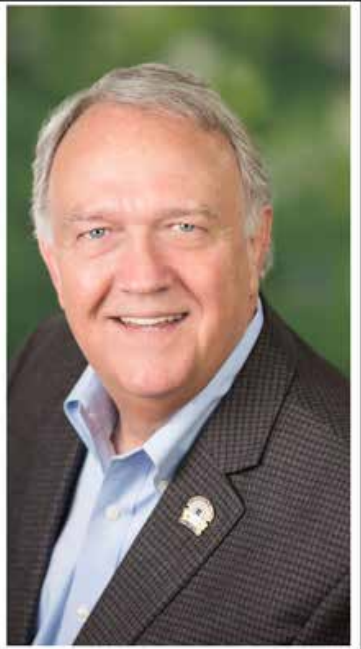
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## Allandale Eating - District Kitchen

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

facebook page). Based on the menu, if Yoda was a foodie, he would say, "The mixology is strong with this one." We did try a banana-themed libation (no longer on the menu?), but the bride deathstarred it as "Interesting, but I won't order it again."

The waitstaff is friendly and unobtrusive: There when you need them, not there when you don't. The place itself has a minimalist-modern steampunk Moroccan vibe to it, with deep red walls, black furniture, gears galore, and a massive pivot door. The corner windows brighten up the space and the tables during the day. An outside patio beckons in favorable weather.

All in all, District fits a needed niche in Allandale eating, resting comfortably between the high-end, nationally-recognized cheffiness of Barley Swine around the corner and the elevated Texas-Continental of Jack Allen's Kitchen across the street. We plan on visiting often.

**District Kitchen+Cocktails: 7858 Shoal Creek Boulevard, [districtaustin.com](http://districtaustin.com)**

*To see these photographs, and additional ones, in color, please visit [www.austinwanderlist.com/blog](http://www.austinwanderlist.com/blog) ☿*

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## More Allandale Eating - Quick Bites

Robert E. Mace, Dining from Daugherty

New places, new faces, lots of tacos, and a wee bit of shabu shabu!

A few new restaurants are here or on their way: Debra Ford of Cleopatra's Salon opened Austin Koffee & Kolache Shoppe next door in the former Kolache Creations location at 7113 Burnet Road so she could still get convenient kolaches (now that's devotion!). Louisiana Crab Shack flipped on its fryers in the Anderson Mall near Guitar Center (see review this issue). Jason's Deli opened a new outpost (and several jars of mayonnaise) at 2438 Anderson Lane, and District Kitchen+Cocktails held its grand opening at the old Suzi's location in mid-May (see review this issue).

The Tatsu-Ya Twins announced that their long-awaited expansion next to Tacodeli would be named DipDipDip Shabu-Shabu (which sounds like a racy Bollywood dance routine), would open in June, and would focus on dinner (when Tacodeli is closed, thus avoiding a parkingapocalypse). Honest Mary's, purveyor of fast-casual grain bowls, will open in the Rosedale Shopping Center (in the old spot for Blue Star) in October. If you want a sneak preview, check out their original location at 9828 Great Hills Drive.

In other news, Philip Speer, he of Bonhomie (RIP), has opened a highly anticipated ModernMex place with Gabe Eroles called Comedor downtown. Epicerie's expansion into Laguna Gloria is now open, and Taco Flats is expanding into the old Zocalo Café on West Lynn. The Peached Tortilla's new venture downtown, Bar Peached, is getting rave reviews, and Bidermann's Deli opened a downtown spot. Dos Batos Tacos gave us a scare by closing

down for a short time but is back at it with a newly added brisket taco. Finally, there are unconfirmed reports of Bryce Gilmore of Barley Swine throwing axes while mumbling about micro-spatulas at High 5.

The bride and I ventured to the National Taco Championships regional event in Austin on March 20th, and our local taco traders did quite well with Torchy's topping out as the Grand Champion with the second best chicken taco, second best pork taco, best seafood taco, and second best veggie taco. Eldorado Café prepped the best pork taco and T-Loc's slapped down the best beef taco. Between the two of us, we ate 11 tacos and still somehow drove home (officer: "Is that barbacoa I smell on your breath?"). The national event will be held November 9th in Las Vegas. Hopefully, whatever happens in Vegas (i.e. heartburn) stays in Vegas.

Culturemap Austin listed Pinthouse Pizza as one of the nine best breweries in town and Tacodeli's Otto (a personal fave) as one of their top ten best tacos. The over-caffeinated Eater Austin listed Epoch Coffee as one of its "30 Excellent Coffee Shops"; Bidermann's Deli, Little Deli & Pizzeria, Way South Philly, and Noble Sandwich Co. among its "Where to Find Austin's Greatest Sandwiches"; Peached Tortilla, Fonda San Miguel, and Picnik among its "38 Essential Restaurants in Austin"; Eldorado Café, Fonda San Miguel, Tacodeli, and Torchy's among its "15 Amazing Queso Spots"; and Fonda San Miguel as one of their "Best Restaurants to Take Your Parents To." Austin-360eats included Lucy's Fried Chicken, Tumble 22, Noble Sandwich Co., Chi'Lantro, Peached Tortilla, Tarka, Tacodeli, Little Deli, Sap's Fine Thai Cuisine, and Citizen Eatery as among their list of "101 Places to Dine for Less Than \$15."

### Picnik

Americans love goofy diets, and Paleo is no exception. Based on the hypothesis that we should eat what our pre-agricultural hunter-gatherer ancestors ate 10,000 to 2.5 million years ago, the Paleo diet cuts out grains, dairy, legumes, and all processed foods. Paleo, the thinking goes, is the diet evolution designed for our bodies (although, somewhat disappointingly, the Paleoheads left out cannibalism: "Would you like a side of Jim with that?"). Although faddish and somewhat incorrect (there's evidence of grain con-



sumption [including beer!] as far back as 30,000 years ago, as well as an evolutionary adaptation to dairy and grains since the Paleolithic, at least for the northern tribes), any diet that cuts out Twinkies is, at its heart, probably a good one.

Started in a shipping container in South Austin in 2013 by Naomi Seifter, Picnik quickly became the torch-bearer for Paleo in Austin, especially for grass-fed butter coffee. In 2016, Naomi expanded to brick and mortar in the former Fork & Taco space on Burnet Road. Located in a new cave, Picnik expanded its menu from breakfast and lunch to include dinner. Picnik has a standard menu (free of gluten, corn, peanut, and soy) and, if requested, a special diet menu (free of maple, honey, grains, dairy, soy, legumes, corn, and peanuts; includes dishes that are nightshade-free and nut-free).

Everything I've ordered at Picnik has been excellent and expertly prepared. Their take on avocado toast (fermented sourdough, mashed avocado, hemp seed, radish, chile flakes, and micro-greens; \$10.25 with poached egg [+\$.50] and chopped bacon [+\$.50]) provoked a Chewbacca-like caveman roar of appreciation (my sincerest apologies to nearby diners).

As a spiritual carryover from Fork & Taco, the tacos are a bit on the expensive side, but quite delicious and filling. We've enjoyed the Meatlovers (pastured pork chorizo, grass-fed beef breakfast sausage, sugar-free bacon, eggs, and chipotle aioli; \$7.50) as well as the fish tacos (cassava flour tortillas, crispy black drum, orange-sesame slaw, cilantro, pickled onion, lime, and chipotle aioli; \$14.25). And Picnik deserves bonus points for the all-day breakfast menu that includes pancakes, french toast, and various egg dishes.

We had to try Picnik's famous butter coffee, via a cappuccino which included coffee, butter, MCT (medium chain triglyceride) coconut oil, and whey protein (~\$6). The drink comes with a side of what I (a scientist) and the bride (an engineer) call The Woo, which you can enhance with Moon Dust (including options for brain, beauty, power, spirit, dream, and [ahem] sex for \$1 each). Picnik offers cocktails, wines, and, as you might expect, gluten-free beer. If the mixed drinks are as good as the Berry Basil Booch (blackberry, basil, ginger, local raw honey, lime, and botanical kombucha; \$6) I slurped for lunch, sign me up!

Picnik expertly employs non-standard

Avocado toast, caveman style!



ingredients in a way that not only doppelgangers traditional choices but exceeds

them. The tortillas, sourced from the local Siete Family Foods, are a great example; made from cassava flour, they are delicious but also wickedly tenacious, avoiding the dreaded "taco blowout syndrome" that is sadly rampant in Austin establishments. The limitations created by Paleo and other real and imagined dietary restrictions induce inventive mash-ups and mixtures, something this jaded food reviewer genuinely appreciates. And the food not only seems healthy; in most cases, it is.

Although I've made slight (but factual) fun of Paleo and The Woo, Picnik is an excellent restaurant and is now one of our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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## More Allandale Eating - Quick Bites

continued from page 11

neighborhood faves. Food fads come and go, but it's always time for a Picnik!

**Picnik: 4801 Burnet Road,  
picnikaustin.com**

### Louisiana Crab Shack

Restaurants come and go at the Anderson Mall, so I shouldn't have been surprised when I looked up from an errand and saw a new restaurant: Louisiana Crab Shack (this always happens within a day after I deliver my article to Ms. Beck, our dedicated and delightful editor). The Shack has a low Internet profile; the Austin location is the only one with a web page (!!!), and it provides precious little for a backstory. A search of the interwebs reveals nothing about the chain. Hmm... witness protection program? What I do know is that with our Shack, there are now seven total in Texas with

locations in Balch Springs, Arlington, Mesquite, Humble, Plano, and Cedar Hill.

Bringing fried seafood with a side of Cajun-Creole is not a bad idea for our area since the closest Cajun is Pappadeaux's and Captain Benny's on I-35, and another Pappadeaux's north on 183. The Shack is informal; you'd feel welcome arriving in shredded shorts and sandy flip flops. Ordering is at the counter, and friendly staff brings your food to your table. The walls are plastered with televisions broadcasting sports and nutria-cooking programs (OK, I made that last bit up).

We devoured a catfish po-boy (\$10.95) and a half-catfish/half-shrimp fried basket (\$11.95), both served with cayenne-sprinkled Cajun fries. The catfish was perfectly prepared: crunchy on the outside and soft and warm on the inside. We also enjoyed the Cajun corn delivered in a bag of sauce of your chosen pain level and flavor profile. A nearby Shack-veteran demonstrated brilliant foresight by bringing latex gloves to handle his food. Our appetizer--an order of fried oysters--arrived dessert

late, were 97.3 percent breading, and over-fried. We'll give them a hall pass on this since they are new, but it suggests that sticking with traditional tried-and-trues may be best.

The beer selection suggests The Shack is a Texan's interpretation of a crab joint in Louisiana, with Shiner Bock but no Abita Turbo Dog, Parish, or any other beer from the swamps. If fried will make you died, the Shack also has grilled options, broiled options, wraps, and salads. However, they fry everything within reach, including the salmon! Oh, and they do offer king, snow, and Dungeness crab, but then again, maybe not; their online menu does not match their in-store menu.

**Louisiana Crab Shack: 2525 West  
Anderson Lane, [www.  
louisianacrabshackaustin.com](http://www.louisianacrabshackaustin.com)**

*To see these photographs, and additional ones, in color, please visit [www.austinwanderlist.com/blog](http://www.austinwanderlist.com/blog) ☼*

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# SURVEY

**Pages 13- 14 are intended to be completed by Allandale residents, folded, and mailed according to instructions on page 14. Thank you for your feedback!**

## WHAT IS YOUR OPINION? - PART 2

The Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) created a follow-up questionnaire on issues important to the neighborhood, members and non-members. The results of this follow-up survey will be available at the October general membership meeting. The results of both surveys will be made available in the ANA Yahoo Group, the newsletter and ANA website. By responding to this questionnaire, you acknowledge and agree that anonymized data and/or results may be shared publicly and made available privately upon request. If you have questions or comments about this survey, or if you would like to find out how to join the Allandale Neighborhood Association, please email us at [allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com).

**Please enter a number 1 thru 5 in the space provided after the survey question/statement based on the following definitions:**

**(1) strongly agree, (2) somewhat agree, (3) neutral, (4) somewhat disagree, (5) strongly disagree.**

1. ANA should work with the City of Austin Transportation Department to advocate for funding for traffic calming measures on Shoal Creek Blvd. \_\_\_\_ (Score 1-5)

2. ANA should work with the City of Austin Transportation to advocate for funding for traffic calming measures on Twin Oaks Drive. \_\_\_\_ (Score 1-5)

3. ANA should work with the City of Austin Transportation Department to advocate for funding for traffic calming measures on White Horse Trail. \_\_\_\_ (Score 1-5)

4. ANA should work with City of Austin Police Department to advocate for increased enforcement of speed limits on Shoal Creek Blvd. \_\_\_\_ (Score 1-5)

5. What types of social activities do you want ANA to invest in?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Should ANA engage with Austin Energy to help coordinate optimal tree trimming schedules? \_\_\_\_ (Score 1-5)

7. What is your property address? (If you prefer to not share your address, please replace the last two digits with "XX". For example, for the address 2913 Northland Dr., the address would be shown as 29XX Northland Dr.)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

# SURVEY

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# Gullett Good News

Piper Browne



And, just like that, another awesome school year is finished! We wound down the year with a bang: the Gullett Dads' Bowl-a-Palooza, a rollicking birthday party for Tina the Tortoise, a book fair, a talent show, and the last of the STAAR tests for the year.

Gullett is closed beginning June 6, but registration is still open online for those who need to do so. Please register your student online at [www.austinisd.org/enroll](http://www.austinisd.org/enroll) as soon as possible.

This summer, expect to see some action on the Pre-K/Kindergarten playground as that area of campus undergoes an update. Please be aware and stay clear of that playground while construction is going on.

We look forward to a fun and restorative summer before we get back to business in the fall! The first day of the 2019/2020 school year is Tuesday, August 20th.

For more information, always go to <https://gullettgeckos.com/> ☼

## All About Lamar

Laura Dooley



What a great year for the Lamar Scotties! While our students and teachers are well into their summer break (ending the school year prior to Memorial Day seems like they get an entire bonus week!), many will look back on this school year with memories of exciting times and great achievements. Here's a recap some recent happenings and a look at what's around the bend for the Lamar community.

The hard work that all the Fine Arts strand teachers and students do culminated in exceptional end-of-year productions. Hardly an evening goes by in April or May that doesn't feature a theatrical, choral, musical, dance, or artistic production. Lamar students benefit greatly from such a multidisciplinary education; thank you, teachers and administrators, for keeping the Fine Arts Academy thriving!

Many of you have seen the beautiful yearbook produced by Lamar teacher and Allandale neighbor Rachel Dietz along

with her team of yearbook students. Mrs. Dietz seems to outdo herself every year, and this year's edition, entitled "Illuminate" is no exception. This book is expertly crafted and will be treasured by Lamar students for years to come.

Lamar bid the eighth graders farewell in grand style the week of May 20 with an all-day picnic and pool party at Northwest Park, a promotion ceremony at McCallum High School, and a celebration during the last hour of the school year in the courtyard with Amy's Ice Cream. Good luck in all your future endeavors, you newly-minted freshmen! It seems like only yesterday we were welcoming you to middle school with a transition camp experience.

That same experience will be offered this year, so parents of incoming sixth graders, check out the Lamar website at [lamarmiddleschool.org](http://lamarmiddleschool.org) or call (512) 414-3217 for more info on how to register your child. Transition camp is not required, but it's a great way for kids to start to acclimate themselves to their new environment. You can choose from one of two sessions: July 29 and 30, or July 31 and August 1. Both run from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Along with bidding our eighth graders farewell, three long-time members of the Lamar team announced their retirements. Rachel McNeil (photography), Scott Telles (social studies), and Bernadette Dodd (counselor). Thank you all for your dedication to the nurturing of many, many Scotties.

Looking for somewhere nearby for kids to spend some time this summer? McCallum High School is offering loads of camps, including robotics, film, girls soccer, basketball, Blue Brigade dance, and cheer. Check out [mccallumhs.com](http://mccallumhs.com) for more info and how to register. Scottie artists entering 6th, 7th, or 8th grade next year might consider summer art opportunities at Lamar. Art Camps are being offered July 29 - August 1 and August 5 - 8 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. In order to make room for more kids, students will be able to register for only one of the two weeks. Cost is \$150 for the week and there are 25 seats available for each session. Please contact art teacher Mr. Perkins to register, at [james.perkins2@austinisd.org](mailto:james.perkins2@austinisd.org). These camps are open to any incoming 6th, 7th,

and 8th grade Lamar students, not just for students majoring in Visual Arts. Art projects will include screen sculpture, painting, drawing, printing, printmaking, watercolor, screen printing, and airbrushing.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 20 -- that's the first day of the new school year! Hard to think about right now, but by the time August 20 rolls around, our middle school community will be ready to jump back in and be part of what makes Lamar Middle School such a great place to be. Happy summer, everyone! ☼

## It's Knight Time - McCallum Updates

Kristin Knifton



It's a bittersweet time of year at McCallum, full of successes to celebrate but also time to say goodbye to students and faculty as they embark on new journeys. Congratulations to all of the 2019 McCallum High School graduates! The class of 2019 held its graduation ceremony on May 29 at the Erwin Center, with speeches by valedictorian Raiya Myren and salutatorian Lindsey Wiley. Graduates are headed off to a variety of pursuits, including military, work, gap years, and college. Some of the colleges the members of the Class of 2019 are headed to include The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Tufts University, Smith College, Vanderbilt University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Fordham, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and many more!

With very mixed feelings, we congratulate Principal Mike Garrison on his retirement after 40 years in education, 16 years of which were as principal of McCallum High School. Mr. Garrison has been a well-loved figure at McCallum for his ability to foster an environment that celebrates diversity and allows students and teachers to excel in academics, the arts, and athletics. In a recent interview with students from the Mac Shield, Mr. Garrison noted that establishing relationships is the key to success in education and he certainly did just that during his tenure at McCallum. To listen to the full interview, visit <https://>

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

## It's Knight Time – McCallum Updates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

macshieldonline.com/25276/opinion/thank-you-mr-garrison-for-everything/. Other retiring teachers to wish well include Mr. Richard Whisennand (science) and Ms. Georgia Shockley (orchestra).

As we say goodbye to Mr. Garrison, we also welcome the interim principal, Brandi Hosack! Besides being a former science teacher and softball coach, Ms. Hosack previously served as Akins HS principal in AISD for three years, as well as the principal of North Forney High School near Dallas. She was also named AISD Principal of the Year in 2017, making her an excellent choice to lead McCallum this next school year.

It's time to say a big "Hello and Welcome" to incoming freshmen Knights! As of press time, the transition camps have already occurred. "Back to Mac" will happen in early August, where students can pick up their course schedules and meet with counselors to make any needed changes. The schedule is: Seniors: August

5, Juniors: August 6, Sophomores: August 7, and Freshmen: August 8. Each of these days, students may come to the school between 9 a.m. and 12 noon and from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

There are lots of summer camps happening at McCallum. These include: Steel Drum Camp – June 3-7; Baseball Skills Camp – June 10-12 (Northwest Pony Field); Robotics – June 24-28; Basketball – July 8-11; Girls Soccer Camp – July 22-25; Mac Cheer Camp – July 22-25; Blue Brigade Dance Camp – July 29-August 2. For more information, please visit <https://mccallumhs.com/sports/summer-camps-at-mac/>

Not to be a downer, but there are summer reading assignments for students enrolled in English Pre-AP and AP classes, including rising freshmen. To find these, visit <https://mccallumhs.com/weekly-email/summer-reading-assignments-for-english-courses/>

A seasoned parent's advice: rip that

band aid off and complete these in June! Speaking of academics, there are now several course options available for students at McCallum. Students may choose between "regs" (regular classes), Pre-AP and AP (advanced placement), "On-Ramps" (University of Texas credit classes) and ACC dual credit classes. There are many pros and cons to each of these choices. If you're unsure as to which is best for your student, it's best to consult with their counselor.

### Other important dates:

August 15, 2019 @ 12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Fine Arts Academy New Student and Parent Orientation (MAC)

August 20 – first day of classes

As always, to get more frequent updates about MAC happenings, you may check the website ([mccallumhs.com](https://mccallumhs.com)), the award-winning Mac Journalism online at [macshieldonline.com](https://macshieldonline.com), or follow Mac Journalism on Instagram. ☼

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## Neighborhood Watch

Laura DiCarlo, ANA Safety Chair, lhdicar-  
lo@yahoo.com

### Please use the COA 311 App

I usually start my articles with recent crime stats, but this month I want to make sure everyone sees information about the Austin 311 app. The free app makes it quick and easy to report everything from graffiti, errant scooters, loose dogs, and food complaints (like the recent Chipotle incident), to poison ivy in public areas, loud music, potholes, new signs needed, and so much more. It works great for most things we want to report to 311; city employees tell me they use it all the time, as it is the most efficient way to convey information to different departments, and the ability to submit a picture is fabulous.

While reporting graffiti over the last two months, I found out the GPS component on the 311 app gives incorrect addresses when at the retention pond and Northwest Park, and I am working with a

resident to follow up with the city. A fix may not occur until lots of people start using the app, so please help by reporting graffiti using the 311 app any time you are at Northwest Park or the retention park. This will also help the city see how much graffiti we get in Allandale. Burnet Road businesses are being victimized as well.

### Crime Stats

Since the writing of the April newsletter there have been no burglary of residences (BORs), but there was a burglary of non-residence (BNR), in which a homeowner happened upon someone in their shed on White Horse Trail, and two other burglaries of non-residences were reported at businesses on Northcross and Burnet Road. There were seven burglary of vehicles (BOVs) in April, two in May, and three auto thefts (whole vehicle stolen).

Clothes and consumable goods were stolen in a robbery by threat at 2525 W. Anderson Lane, and a woman wielding a knife was arrested in an aggravated robbery

with a deadly weapon in the middle of the day on April 24, at a convenience store/gas station in the 7800 block of Burnet Rd. The complete list of crime reports, including assaults, thefts, DWIs, criminal trespass, etc. can be viewed at [http://www.krimelabb.com/\\_nca1/view/v\\_neighborhood.php?neighborhood=allandale](http://www.krimelabb.com/_nca1/view/v_neighborhood.php?neighborhood=allandale)

To give more details about the BNR on White Horse Trail – at around 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 13, residents on White Horse Trail found a man in their backyard shed (he had gained entry by breaking the lock). When spotted, he ran out, hopped the fence, and was caught by police later, biking away on Burnet. Kudos to the homeowner, as the police were able to identify the perpetrator because the homeowner took pictures as the perpetrator was running away.

Three of the BOVs occurred at 2525



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# Neighborhood Watch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

W. Anderson Lane (commercial parking lot) between 6 and 7 p.m. on April 4, and all three were reported on April 5, as that's when the business found out about them. Wallets, purses, clothes, tools, and a GPS system were stolen, and I am awaiting information back about how entry was gained. The other BOVs were on Shoalwood, Montview, the 6200 block of SCB, 7800 block of Shoal Creek Boulevard (parking lot at southwest corner of SCB and Anderson Lane), Carleen, and Foster Lane. Computers, purses, wallets, clothes, and cell phones were stolen.

The auto thefts occurred in the Ross and the H-E-B parking lots. Charles Maund Volkswagen also had a vehicle stolen, but it was because of a hot check.

## Listserve discussion/Nextdoor posts:

- Lots of discussion on the Allandale listserve about zoning and flooding; while not directly in my purview, flooding is a safety issue.
- Coyotes active in the area, even during the day (Nasco and Cary discussed on Nextdoor – please be aware and report to 311 if you see coyotes).
- More credit card skimming at gas stations near Allandale – best to go in and pay to be sure your card doesn't get compromised.
- A COA alert was sent out on Nextdoor on May 27 that Austin-Travis EMS had responded to ten land rescues in the last seven days. They warned folks to know where you're going when hiking, make sure you have a charged cell phone with you, plan according to your physical restrictions, wear supportive shoes, and tell someone where you're going.
- The Public Info Office put out a hot car safety tip on Nextdoor on May 26 – don't leave children, elderly people, or pets in your parked vehicle and check the car first if someone is missing. (Texas leads the nation with 120 children who have died of heat stroke since 1990 – this is a list on which it would be much better to be at the bottom!)
- Someone tried to break into a carport door in southern Allandale/Balcones

West area.

- Concerns about Omnipest and OmniShield pest control and whether the folks going door to door claiming to work for them were legitimate; they appear to be legit as some hired them.
- A man walking a dog was caught on camera entering a porch 50 feet from the street; much of the discussion on Nextdoor focused on whether it is OK for someone to do this, why someone would, how to handle it when it happens, etc. I posted that the homeowner should make a 311 report so that it is documented and a pattern can be established if there are further issues. I also reiterated the only time to call 911 is if a crime is happening at the time and you need immediate police assistance.
- Police report hasn't posted yet on krimelabb.com but a resident reported on Nextdoor that a bag, wallet, and phone were stolen from a car on Placid Place at 11:15 p.m. on May 30.
- Police report not yet available on krimelabb, but a teal Schwinn bike was stolen from Northcross Center between 1 and 7 p.m. on May 30 by cutting the lock; another bike was stolen in the same area on May 27. If anyone has knowledge about these bike thefts or has had a bike stolen please contact the police.
- Padlock cut on a back gate and questions if Austin Energy would have done it to get access.
- Tools stolen from a carport and shed.
- Graffiti near Allandale; I encouraged posters to use the 311 app.
- Rock thrown through back window of a car in the driveway in the 7000 block of SCB on April 9.
- Rock thrown through a front window of a house in the 7600 block of SCB on April 30.
- Bikes stolen from a carport on Pinecrest on April 12 and April 26.
- BOV of an unlocked truck on Cary, in which a flashlight and a few coins were stolen. This was posted on Nextdoor, but no police report on krimelabb.com
- Concerns over possible food poisoning from Chipotle on Anderson Lane on May 27.

## Correspondence/actions of the safety committee:

- Reported graffiti via the Austin 311 app and removed/covered graffiti.
- Continuing to support the efforts of the Greenlawn block captain to hold United Auto Group accountable for parking cars in the right of way.
- Waiting for Marcus Primm of the COA Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) to give us an estimate on the cost to build a sidewalk on Twin Oaks, between SCB and Pegram; Allandale resident Hanalei Myers has agreed to help organize ANA's efforts.
- Became aware of and have asked Officer Ellis to get involved with a homeless camp behind Fairlane Drive that may be on TXDOT property.
- Attended a home safety audit at the Allandale Condos; waiting to hear from their president on block captain training.
- ANA survey results indicate concerns regarding speeding on GNB, SCB, White Rock and WHT, so Officer Ellis will be setting up a speed trailer in early- to mid-June. The ANA wanted to put it just north of Treadwell at the curve in SCB, but Officer Ellis said residents have complained in the past about blocking the bike path, so we're working on alternate locations.
- The ANA survey also showed concerns with Austin Energy not trimming where needed that could be related to outages. Craig Sachs, arborist from Austin Energy, said:
- Regular tree trimming is on an every four- to five-year schedule.
- With city council restricting them to cutting no more than four feet instead of the 10- to 12-foot clearance they used to use, trees sometimes grow more than four feet in that four- to five-year period, causing more outages (people were complaining that Austin Energy was butchering trees so city council restricted Austin Energy's cutting).
- Oak Wilt does sometimes get in the way, but they always disinfect their tools and paint cuts year-round, even when not oak wilt season.
- A homeowner can prune a tree that hangs on their property, but COA can only prune with the permission of the owner whose property has the tree trunk where it comes out of the

ground (so if a neighbor is concerned they need to have the owner call or email).

- A resident with a tree on their property that needs trimming because it's close to a power line should call (512) 322-6771 instead of using the 311 app. Craig or his colleague Raji answer during business hours, and there is a recording during non-business hours.
- The number to call if a pole is leaning is (512) 974-8400.
- Can email Craig at [utilityforestry@austinenergy.com](mailto:utilityforestry@austinenergy.com)
- Austin Energy lines are 45-50 feet up and connected with insulators because of high voltage. Other wires, such as cable TV, telephone, etc. are lower (sometimes only 20 feet off the ground). Austin Energy doesn't prune trees for those lines.
- Marty Wise, the COA EV Inspection Specialist Tree Preservation Division, said to report an outage even if others have already done so.
- Learned of an incident May 27, in which a man told a teen sitting at a picnic table at Gullett during non-school hours that a man with a gun was in the neighborhood; the person who spoke to the teen was later seen face down on the ground with his hands on his knees as a police car pulled up. No case number or other information about the incident was immediately available.
- Was informed that someone may have tried to enter a home on Cavileer Avenue in the middle of the night on May 15; after hearing noise at 2:30 a.m., the homeowner found a fake credit card (like the ones that come in the mail with an offer) on the ground next to the back door, hatch marks the size of a credit card on the door, and four spotlights had been loosened the next morning.
- A person temporarily staying at someone's home in Allandale had a psychotic event in which he said he wanted to hurt himself and others; he has since left, but the resident has found there is little protection for someone who allows someone to stay in their house and then realizes the person may be dangerous.

Feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, or if you are interested in getting involved with the safety committee. You can become a block captain, help remove graffiti, patrol, help plan, and take the TAKE10 Compression Only

CPR training next February, and more!

### **Our APD District Representative (DR):**

Officer Doug Ellis  
[douglas.ellis@austintexas.gov](mailto:douglas.ellis@austintexas.gov)  
512-974-5736 ☒

## **With Four Million People and Climate Change, Where Will Austin's Water Come From?**

Robert E. Mace

**T**he drought of 2008 through 2016 was a wake-up call for Austin. As levels in the Highland Lakes—Austin's sole source of water—dwindled to near-record lows, the city enacted drought restrictions that threatened landscapes and businesses. As lake levels continued to decline, Austinites worried that the city would run out of water. Fortunately, the rains returned; however, the ever-present threat of drought remains for our growing city.

In response to the drought, the city council formed the Water Forward Task Force to work with city staff and the community to develop a 100-year water plan for Austin. This planning effort focused on increasing the sustainability, reliability, and diversity of Austin's water supplies with an emphasis on (1) water conservation and reuse; (2) projects that are technically, socially, and economically feasible; and (3) environmental protection. Unlike state planning efforts, which only extend 50 years into the future, Austin's plan also considers the potential effects of climate change on our water resources.

The challenges to meet Austin's future water needs are sobering. There are currently about one million Austinites. Demographers expect our population to grow to two million by 2065 and four million by 2115. On top of a rapidly increasing population are the anticipated effects of climate change—including increased temperatures and lower rainfall, both of which will result in less water flowing to our reservoirs. If Austin does nothing to shore up its water resources, the Highland Lakes may go completely dry for years at a time.

The good news is that Austin's Water Forward Integrated Water Resource Plan identifies solutions to Austin's growing water resource challenges. These solutions include both water efficiency and water-supply projects. Water efficiency includes installing smart water meters that will inform you when you have a leak, reducing leaks in the city's water pipes, and requiring water-efficient landscaping in new construction. Eventually, new buildings will be required to use rainwater, stormwater, greywater (from sinks and showers), air conditioning condensate, and treated wastewater to meet non-potable needs. Water-supply projects include storing excess river water in (1) an aquifer for use during a drought, something San Antonio has done with great success and (2) an off-channel reservoir (essentially a ring dike located away from the river).

In the coming months and years, you will hear more about these solutions as the city implements them. Similar to the development of the Water Forward plan, there will be opportunities for the community to voice opinions on implementation. With a changing climate, a growing community, evolving regulations, and developing technology, Austin will revisit and revise the plan every five years.

The Water Forward Integrated Water Resource Plan established Austin as a water leader in the state and the country. Working together, we can ensure that we meet our water needs while enhancing Austin's quality of life and the protection of the environment.

To learn more about Austin Water Forward, please visit <https://bit.ly/2JofNXX> and <http://austintexas.gov/aiwrpctf>. To read the plan, please visit <https://bit.ly/304yaa7>.

Robert Mace serves as a member of the Austin Water Forward Task Force as an appointee of Council Member Pool, Dis-

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## With Four Million People and Climate Change, Where Will Austin's Water Come From?

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trict 7. Robert is also the Interim Executive Director and Chief Water Policy Officer at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University. ☼



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## Letters to the Editor:

We'd love for readers to submit newsletter ideas, stories, and reactions to articles.

allandaleneighbor  
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## Buti Yoga for Women: An Allandale Treasure

Kerry Drake

When I first heard about Buti yoga, my mind immediately spelled the word "booty." I thought, "What an unfortunate name for a yoga practice for women who might have concerns about their booties." I now know the name and the practice are keys to unlocking self-awareness and self-acceptance. After practicing Buti yoga with Ashley Romberg for over a year, I can see and feel a big difference in my body and my mind. It can be powerful and transformative, and it's taught by a wonderful, down-to-earth instructor right here in Allandale.

So what is Buti yoga? Buti is the Marathi Indian term meaning, "the cure to something that's been hidden away or kept secret." I feel like one of the big secrets I uncovered was that I actually have a core that can get strengthened. Always floating around in my head, I've never been much into thinking about my body. Since I've been practicing, though, I have had no more backaches, more energy, and I feel strengthened both physically and mentally. (And I've come to accept the fact that I have a body and a core that need strengthening.)

Buti combines yoga poses with cardio-intensive bursts, tribal dance, primal movements, conditioning, and body acceptance and confidence. It is a soulful

exercise that is fun and supportive. During class, I think back to times in my early 20s when I used to spontaneously dance in the living



Ashley Romberg (L) & Kerry Drake (R), prior to a Sunday morning Buti class

room with friends to the Gypsy Kings and work up a real sweat. The dance and music aspect of Buti make it fun. Yes, it's also a workout. Sometimes I laugh out loud when Ashley shows a new movement, and I think, "Impossible! No way!" and then, I move with the music and, to my surprise, I'm doing it. And speaking of movement, some of the moves are tremendous workouts for my 50-year-old brain. Step sequences and balance poses are invigorating more than just my body; they are working my memory, balance, and coordination, as well.

Buti focuses on Spiral Structure Technique. There is a lot of "spiraling" in this class, which helps to focus on all of your core, not just the front part of your abs (after all, we are circular beings, not simply flat with only a front...). The spiral

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movement also helps loosen hips (while strengthening core), and can lead to a powerful release of held energy. (I again think back to something hidden inside.) I keep hearing, associated with this practice, “Free the hips, free the mind,” and I’ve observed this in class with the range of emotional release that sometimes happens for women in class. The great thing is it’s a safe, supportive, non-judgy group, so freeing that hidden stuff is always well accepted and supported.

There are so many reasons I take my Sunday morning Buti yoga as a practice I cannot or will not miss. The main one is the instructor, Ashley, and the supportive group of regulars who attend. Ashley is an Austin-raised, down-to-earth empath and mother of four. Her gentle, accepting approach is never harsh, always loving, supportive, and fun. And she sweats right along with us. I simply can’t find a better practice to support my mind/body experience.

**Wednesdays 9-10am Sundays  
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W. Anderson Ln. [www.facebook.com/butyogawithashley](http://www.facebook.com/butyogawithashley) ☼**

## The Pond’s Blue Zone is Now Green

Mary Fero

Anyone who visits Northwest Park probably has walked by the pond or at least seen it from the pool, ball courts, playground or walking trails. People of all ages enjoy the pond – it’s a place to slow down in the middle of the park in the middle of the city.

As a nature habitat, the pond is home to fish, turtles, ducks, several types of herons, and other local and migratory birds. Young and older friends find it a pleasant spot to have a conversation, share a picnic or read a book. Families visit the pond to turtle-watch or to pass along the tradition of fishing to the youngest generation. And it’s also a popular place for photography, including macro-photography of insects! As evident at Mueller and Central Park, water features are popular, and research has documented that people feel positive

effects from being around water.

Unfortunately, our pond is suffering. Rather than the soothing “blue effect” people feel around water, we’re seeing a pretty dramatic “green effect” caused by an overgrowth of invasive aquatic plants like duckweed, alligator weed and cattails – plus an environment teeming with algae. This extreme overgrowth creates a solid cover on the water, with most drastic effect in summer months. Combined with high heat, this overgrowth depletes the oxygen in the water and has resulted in massive fish kills (a June 2017 incident report documented 1,200 dead fish).

Scores of volunteers have joined in projects to support the pond on It’s My Park Day over the past couple of years. Trying to reduce direct runoff into the

pond, a no-mow zone was created and native plants were installed along the bank, and mulch was spread along the walking path.

But if you take a look at the pond today, it’s obvious these efforts have not slowed the invasive plant growth. Watershed Protection staff and Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists who visited the pond agree that an aeration system is needed to stem the growth of the duckweed, which thrives in standing water.

The Friends of Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park have submitted a proposal to the Parks and Recreation Department requesting approval for an aerator. Combined with volunteer efforts to remove unwanted plant growth, an

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## The Pond's Blue Zone is Now Green

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aerator could help to restore the aquatic environment in the short-term.

In the long-term, two major projects slated for Northwest Park – work on the dam and reconstruction of the pool – will directly affect the pond.

Extensive work on the dam between the park and Shoal Creek is slated within the next couple of years. The dam includes large conduits between Shoal Creek and the pond to allow water to flow from the creek during flood conditions. The major construction and heavy equipment involved in this dam modernization project would provide a unique opportunity to leverage these resources to revitalize the pond, with potential projects such as dredging and deepening the pond and reconstructing the retaining wall.

Reconstruction of the nearly 65-year-old swimming pool will happen when the pool finally inches its way to the top of the priority replacement list ... and it's close. The pool currently relies on a filtration system that releases water into the pond; a new pool likely will empty into the city's drainage system. Since the natural springs that originally fed the pond were blocked during the 1984 re-engineering of the park, identifying a stable source of water for the pond will be critical once construction begins on a new pool.

Our proposal asks for approval to take small steps now, and for a commitment to investigate and plan for long-term solutions to preserve this treasured asset during future changes to the park. We'll keep you posted.

Meanwhile, for more info, and to be notified of volunteer opportunities, check out the Friends of Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park: [www.facebook.com/northwestdistrictpark/](http://www.facebook.com/northwestdistrictpark/) ☼



### Keep Allandale Green! Owls are in the 'hood!

A reminder for our neighbors not to use poison baits for rodents, use traps instead.

Photo and reminder by  
Allandale neighbor and owl  
observer, Gordon Thompson

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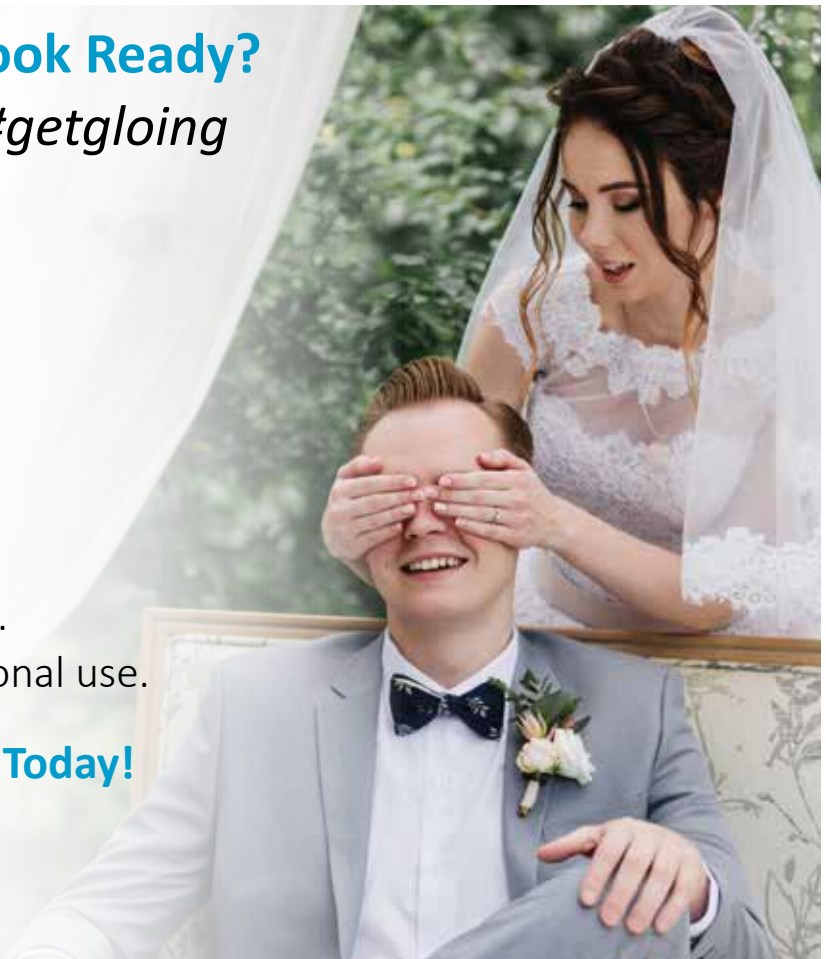
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# Burnet Road Construction

Allan McMurtry

You may be aware of the Burnet Road redesign being put together by the City of Austin. It started prior to December 2013, but was funded by a vote of citizens in 2016 by the Mobility Bond Resolution. The resolution states that "...subject to the foregoing, also makes allowances for: i) preservation of existing affordable housing and local businesses on the corridors." At issue is the introduction of raised medians down Burnet Road and its impact on existing businesses.

The Texas Department of Highways and Transportation (TXDOT) has a series of online manuals about how to construct roadways. Though this part of Burnet Road is not a Texas highway, the manuals are instructive. They recommend a raised median if the vehicle trips per day exceed 20,000, but the raised median is to be "...discouraged if U-turns are not available." There are no U-turns designed into the current Burnet Road plan, yet the medians remain.

The raised medians are a huge issue for local businesses. They prevent all left turns into businesses. Mathematically, that cuts off half of the cars coming in, unless there is an easy way to circle the block. In long stretches of Burnet Road there is no easy circle to make, especially south of Twin Oaks Drive. This circling does not take into account the impact of additional trucks and vehicles on neighborhood streets.

There are roughly 197 business sites on Burnet Road, and 138 of them will have their access cut in half with the medians. A study by Cunningham in North Carolina looked at the reduction of drop-in customers with a raised median. According to Levinson, the drop-in customer loss is most serious for the following business types: service station (-55%), small retail (-55%), fast food (-45%), shopping center (-30%). This impact is after construction. During construction, the impacts are: gas stations (-71%), sit-down restaurants (-50%), drive thru restaurants

(-70%). In order to survive the raised median, a business has to survive the construction time. The average construction time for a 1.50-mile improvement is around three years. The City says the "... bulk of construction will be completed between 2021 and 2024."

The biggest threat is to single-location businesses, but the medians in general create a high business turnover. The North Carolina study also notes that location on the block was critical. Therein lies the rub for the 138 businesses that lose direct left-turn access off Burnet Road. This is in violation of the objectives of the 2016 Mobility Bond and the desires of the voters of Austin.

The City is going even further than just the medians without U-turns. It is also looking to reduce curb cuts. Businesses with a circular parking system like El Mercado, Genie Carwash, Roger Beasley Mazda, among others, will suffer from poor circulation and reduced parking.

This is the tip of the iceberg regarding the impact of new roadway construction on businesses. If you feel that such a design harms businesses or your use of Burnet Road, contact your council member and the Mayor.

This is submitted by Allan McMurtry as President of the Burnet Road Business Association ☼



## Allandale Neighborhood Association New or Renewal Membership. Celebrate Allandale: Love It. Protect It.

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